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**PERFECTION
OIL HEATERS**



Old Time New Year Calls

IN the late sixties, says G. H. Putnam in "Memories of a Publisher," New York had not yet outgrown certain of its old-fashioned or so-called provincial habits. One of the customs was that of making New Year's calls, a practice that had been inherited from the Dutch founders of the city. Long before the beginning of the twentieth century the growth of the metropolis had made impossible this pleasant and convenient habit of coming into touch (at least once a year) with a circle of family friends, but in 1866 the ladies still stayed at home on New Year's day, and old men and youngsters did what they could in the hours between 11 in the morning and midnight to check off with calls of from five to fifteen minutes their own visiting list with that of their wives, their sisters or their mothers.

In my own diary for January 1, 1866, I find the entry, "Made thirty-five calls." I remember on that day coming back in the middle of the afternoon for a word with my mother and finding old Mr. Bryant in her parlor. It was sleeting violently outside, and the luxurious young men of the day were going about in coupes. It was the practice, in order to save expense, for two or three men to join in the expense of a carriage for the day. Mr. Bryant, however, had trudged through the sleet and in response to some words from my mother of appreciation of his effort in coming out in such weather replied cheerily: "Why, I rather like a fresh temperature, Mrs. Putnam. It is only the young men who are chilly and lazy."

Fifteen or eighteen years later New Year's calls in society had become a tradition of the past.

The Life of a War Horse.

Well, well, what do you think of this? You have heard of the tremendous wastage of horse flesh in the present war. You have read statements by so-called authorities, who have never been in France, that the life of a horse on the other side is about seven days. The next time you asked anybody how long a horse lived on the battle front you were told nineteen days. Your next friend assured you that four days was the limit. The superintendent of the horse market at Chicago made a computation from the number of horses exported and informed The Country Gentleman readers that up to the thirty-third month of the war the average life of a horse in France had been at least eleven months.

We shall be obliged to revise our opinions and estimates, not only for France but for all the fronts, according to figures given me by a British army officer. Nothing speaks better for efficiency in the veterinary corps than the actual percentage of losses which have been incurred during this war. Sanitary conditions count for most of all. Good care and good feeding come next.

In the Boer war the British losses were fifty-five per cent a year after the horses had been landed in Africa. In the present war, after the British horses have been landed in France and Salonika, in Egypt and in Mesopotamia, the total losses from all causes—battle, disease, accidents or general worthlessness—have been a shade under ten per cent each year. This percentage figure does not cover losses from the time of the purchase of horses in England, United States or Canada. It means ten per cent a year after they enter active service.

Five per cent is considered an unprecedented mortality loss on horses bought in the United States and Canada and shipped to Great Britain and France. At least half of this loss is incurred on land and prior to the shipment of the horses. We can therefore figure with certainty that of the 1,142,000 horses and mules which have been shipped out of the United States for war purposes, 945,000 are still alive and kicking.

In the southern sector on the Western Front, where conditions are very similar to those which were encountered in South Africa by the British, the horse loss each year among the Germans, I am informed, has been 9-27 per cent. Germans and Allies alike are doing their utmost to conserve their horse power as expressed in horses' power.

Last summer reports came from various United States concentration camps and from the Mexican border that horses purchased for the United States Army were dying like flies. At the close of the campaign the American losses simmered down to something like two and a half per cent. The above statistics come from dependable sources.—G. E. Wentworth in Country Gentleman.

An official dispatch received in Washington, D. C., from France says that the Turks before surrendering Jerusalem to the British brutally mistreated Christian priests, carried off the famous treasure of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, valued at millions of dollars, and sent to Berlin the church's celebrated Ostensory of Brilliants.

New Post Office Rules.

Postmasters over the country have been supplied with a new set of rules which must be followed by the patrons of the office if quick results are to be obtained. Take a slant at them:

No letters given out until they are received. If you don't get a letter or a paper on the day you expect it, have the Postmaster or the employees look through all the boxes and in the basement, too. Your mail ought to be there somewhere, and the force just loves to hunt for it to please you. If your friends don't write rave at the Postmaster; he is to blame. If he tells you there is no mail for you, put on arieved, sour look and tell him there ought to be some. He is doubtless hiding your mail for the pleasure of having you ask for it. Ask him to look again. If you are buying stamps, make him lick'em and put'em on your parcels—that's his business; that's what the Government pays him for! When you drop your letter in the mail box fail to address the same, or forget the stamp. The Postmaster delights in filling the delivery window bars with letters and postcards: "Held for delivery." Call and ask for your mail every two or three hours during the day and send the kids along between your calls. Turn all the touch buttons on the lockboxes, and be sure to drop the fronts of each box floorward. These rules will be observed to fit the office force for Sunday school work

and calm prayer meeting experiences.—Ex.

To Save Fuel.

Statesville Landmark. Suspension of schools and colleges for two weeks at Christmas and union church services are some of the means suggested to save fuel in the towns. Both are reasonable and practicable suggestions, it would seem. Col. Wade Harris of the Charlotte Observer also suggests that residents close their dining rooms and take their meals in the kitchen during the winter to save fuel. Also a good suggestion and one that many people adopt in winter in peace times, solely for comfort and convenience. That all fires that can be dispensed with, even for part time, should be cut out during the winter, is apparent. The necessity is urgent. People who have plenty of fuel for all their needs should not run more fires than are absolutely necessary for comfort. To do so is to deprive others who may not be so fortunate.

Provision for others is a fundamental responsibility of human life.—President Wilson.

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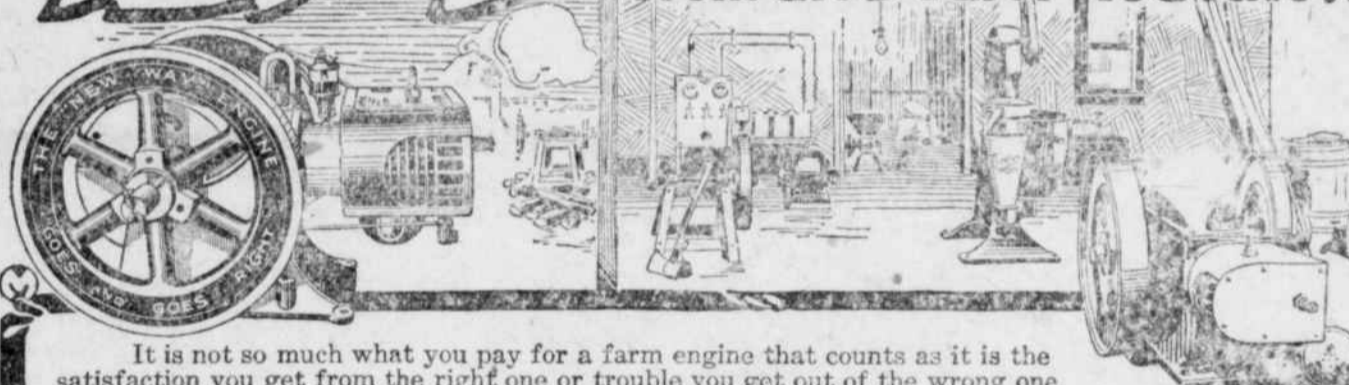
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It is not so much what you pay for a farm engine that counts as it is the satisfaction you get from the right one or trouble you get out of the wrong one.

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The War has made a scarcity of material and labor for two years. This created a shortage of farm machinery last year and affected seriously the output of engines. Prices are going up. They must. This is the time to buy.

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